Applicant : C. Hudson Hendren   Attorney's Docket No.: 75-036002 / Personalization
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In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

24 (currently amended):   A method of providing information based on a user's techinical proficiency ~~comprehension characteristics of a user~~, the method comprising:

     receiving data related to ~~one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~the user's technical proficiency;

     selecting a message from a plurality of messages based upon the received data related to ~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~the user's technical proficiency, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first level of technical proficiency~~data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics~~ and a second message that corresponds to a second level of technical proficiency~~data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics~~; and

     providing the selected message.

25 (original):   The method of claim 24 wherein a first computer provides the message, and wherein the method further comprises transmitting the message to a second computer.

26 (currently amended):   ~~The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise user technical proficiency.~~The method of claim 24 wherein the selecting further comprises performing the message selection at a client.

27 (currently amended):   The method of claim 24~~26~~, wherein the method further comprises ~~determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by~~ inferring a level of user technical proficiency ~~based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~.

28 (currently amended):   The method of claim 24, wherein selecting the message~~the~~ further comprises selecting the message based on~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ ~~comprise~~ one or more preferred languages of the user.

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29 (currently amended): The method of claim 28~~, wherein the method~~ further ~~comprises~~comprising inferring the one or more preferred languages of the user.~~determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.~~

30 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein the message comprises at least one of the following: text, graphics, video, animation, sound and instructions.

31 (currently amended): The method of claim 24, wherein the received data related to the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ is provided by the user.

32 (currently amended): The method of claim 27~~24~~, wherein inferring comprises inferring the level of the user's technical proficiency~~the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is inferred by a computer~~ based on user activity.

33 (currently amended): The method of claim 24 wherein the receiving of the data related to the user's technical proficiency comprises~~one or more comprehension characteristics is partially performed by~~ retrieving the data ~~related to one or more comprehension characteristics~~ from a database.

34 (original): The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) indicator at the first computer in response to a user's HTTP request for a URL (Universal Resource Locator) provided by the second computer.

35 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing a message based on a user's technical proficiency~~comprehension characteristics~~ comprising:

    a data receiver arranged and structured so as to receive data related to the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics of the user~~;

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a data store arranged and structured so as to store a plurality of messages wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first <u>level of technical proficiency</u><s>data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics</s> and a second message that corresponds to a second <u>level of technical proficiency</u><s>data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics</s>; and

a first computer that selects a message from the plurality of messages and provides the <u>selected</u> message.

36 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first computer includes software used to determine the <u>user's technical proficiency</u><s>one or more comprehension characteristics</s> by inferring a level of user technical proficiency<u>.</u><s>based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.</s>

37 (currently amended): The <u>apparatus</u><s>method</s> of claim 36<s>35</s>, wherein <u>inferring comprises inferring the level of the user's technical proficiency based on user activity.</u><s>the first computer includes software used to determine the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.</s>

38 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing a message based on <u>a</u> user<u>'s</u> technical proficiency<s>comprehension characteristics</s>, the <u>apparatus</u><s>proxy</s> comprising:

means for receiving an indicator;

means for receiving data relating to <u>the user's technical proficiency</u><s>one or more comprehension characteristics of the user</s>;

means for selecting a message from a database storing a plurality of messages wherein the selecting is based on the received indicator and the received data relating to <u>the user's technical proficiency</u><s>one or more comprehension characteristics</s>, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first <u>level of technical proficiency</u><s>received indicator and first data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics</s> and a second

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message that corresponds to ~~the first indicator and second data related to~~ a second level of technical proficiency~~set of comprehension characteristics~~; and

means for providing the selected message to a computer.

39 (currently amended): ~~The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise user technical proficiency.~~ The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the computer is a client computer.

40 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the means for selecting the message further comprises means for selecting the message from a plurality of messages based on ~~one or more comprehension characteristics comprise~~ one or more preferred languages of the user.

41 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the data related to the user's technical proficiency~~one or more comprehension characteristics~~ is provided by the user.

42 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the apparatus further comprises means for inferring the user's technical proficiency.~~data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is inferred by a computer.~~

43 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim 38, wherein ~~the~~ receiving ~~of~~ the data related to the user's technical proficiency comprises~~one or more comprehension characteristics is partially performed by~~ retrieving the data ~~related to one or more comprehension characteristics~~ from a~~the~~ database.

44 (new): The method of claim 24 wherein selecting a message is performed at an intervening agent between a client computer and a server computer.

45 (new): The method of claim 44 wherein the intervening agent is a proxy server.

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46 (new):   The method of claim 24 wherein the selected message comprises at least one of a network status indicator, a file status indicator, or an error message.

47 (new):   The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the first computer is an intervening agent between a client computer and a server computer.

48 (new):   The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the intervening agent is a proxy server.

49 (new):   The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the selected message comprises at least one of a network status indicator, a file status indicator, or an error message.

50 (new):   The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the first computer includes software for selecting a message from a plurality of messages based on one or more preferred languages of the user.

51 (new):   The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the first computer includes software for inferring the one or more preferred languages of the user.

52 (new):   The method of claim 24 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.

53 (new):   The apparatus of claim 35 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.

54 (new):   The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the selected message comprises a web page.